

W ater can quickly shut down your AN/TPN-18/18A radar sets by blowing out their electrical circuits. That includes the magnetron tube, NSN 5960-01-046-4482, that is the heart of the radar system.

Waveguide dehydrators absorb moisture, preventing corrosion and shorts inside the waveguides. That's why it's so important to eyeball the color of the three wave-guide dehydrators, NSN 4440-01-093-2831, during your weekly PMCS. Blue is cool. If a dehydrator is pink, change it. If your -18A has a pink dehydrator, it's NMC.

During wet or humid weather, check the dehydrators daily. A new magnetron tube costs about \$3,600. One dehydrator goes for \$10, so it only costs \$30 to replace all three of them.

